REMARKS

This is a full and timely response to the outstanding final Office Action mailed June 2, 2003. Reconsideration and allowance of the application and presently pending claims, as amended, are respectfully requested.

Upon entry of the amendments in this response, claim 22 has been amended to correct a minor typographical error. Independent claims 22, 27, and 32 have been amended in order to further clarify and/or define the aspects of the present invention. Claims 23, 28, and 33 are cancelled. It is believed that the foregoing amendments add no new matter to the present application.

I.   Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102(e)

A.   Statement of the Rejection

Claims 22-23, 27-28, and 32-33 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by *Varma* (U.S. Patent No. 6,336,134).

The rejection states that *Varma* discloses Applicant's invention as recited in the above-identified claims. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

B.   Discussion of the Rejection

It is axiomatic that "[a]nticipation requires the disclosure in a single prior art reference of *each element* of the claim under consideration." W. L. Gore & Associates, Inc. v. Garlock, Inc., 721 F.2d 1540, 1554, 220 U.S.P.Q. 303, 313 (Fed. Cir. 1983)(emphasis added). Therefore, every claimed feature of the claimed invention must be represented in the applied reference to constitute a proper rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e).

In the present case, not every feature of the claimed invention is represented in the *Varma* reference. Each of Applicants' remaining independent claims are discussed in the following:

1.   Claim 22

Independent claim 22 is directed to a system for ensuring synchronization of applications at remote locations. The system comprises local application sharing logic that receives events from local applications, remote application sharing logic that receives the events from local application sharing logic, and remote event buffering logic that buffers the events received by the remote application sharing logic. The remote event buffering logic is further configured to *"determine if remote applications are ready to receive the events."*

Although *Varma* teaches that each partition server includes an "expandable FIFO buffer" (col. 8, line 21), *Varma* fails to teach that this buffer determines if the remote applications are ready to receive events. *Varma*'s buffer only records the history of modifications to bring a new client up to speed with modification already made during a collaboration session.

Claim 22 further defines the manner in which it is determined if the remote applications are ready to receive events. As provided in claim 22, the buffering logic makes that determination by *"sending an inquiry to the remote applications requesting notification when the remote applications are ready to receive the events."* This aspect further distinguishes claim 22 over the *Varma* reference because, as noted above, *Varma's* buffer does not send an inquiry to the remote applications requesting notification when the remote applications are ready to receive the events.

Moreover, the remote event buffering logic of claim 22 determines if the remote applications are ready to receive so that the events can be sent thereto. Claim 22 also requires that the remote application sharing logic is further configured to *"transmit events to the remote applications when the remote applications indicate a ready-to-receive status in response to the inquiry."* Again, *Varma* fails to send an "inquiry" and therefore does not teach the indication of a *"ready-to-receive status in response to the inquiry"* as claimed. Furthermore, *Varma* does not disclose the buffering of events and transmitting the events *"when the remote applications indicate a ready-to-receive status."* For at least these reasons, Applicants assert that *Varma* does not teach each and every element of claim 22. Therefore, applicants respectfully request that the rejection be withdrawn.

2.   Claim 27

Claim 27 recites *"determining if a plurality of remote applications are ready to receive the events."* As noted above, *Varma*'s system does not do teach this recitation. Instead, *Varma*'s system is configured to remember the order in which the modification are entered into the queue so that this order can be followed when the partition server processes the modifications. Therefore, *Varma* fails to teach or suggest determining if the remote applications are *"ready to receive the events,"* as claimed.

Claim 27 further recites determining if the remote applications are ready to receive events *"by sending an inquiry to the remote applications requesting notification when the remote applications are ready to receive the events."* This aspect further distinguishes claim 22 over the *Varma* reference. Again, *Varma's* system does not send an inquiry to the remote applications requesting notification when the remote applications are ready to receive the events.

3.   **Claim 32**

Claim 32 requires *"means for determining if a plurality of remote applications are ready to receive the events."* Although *Varma*'s buffer remembers the order in which modifications are entered into the queue (see *Varma* col. 8, lines 22-25), *Varma* fails to teach or suggest means for determining if *"a plurality of remote applications are ready to receive the events,"* as claimed.

Claim 32 further specifics how it is determined if the remote applications are ready to receive events. In particular, this determination is made *"by sending an inquiry to the remote applications requesting notification when the remote applications are ready to receive the events."* This aspect further distinguishes claim 32 over the *Varma* reference. In particular, *Varma's* system does not send an inquiry to the remote applications requesting notification when the remote applications are ready to receive the events.

II.   **Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)**

A.   **Statement of the Rejection**

Claims 24-26, 29-31, and 34-36 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Varma* in view of *Hales et al.* (*"Hales,"* U.S. Patent No. 5,938,723).

The rejection alleges that *Varma* discloses Applicant's invention substantially as claimed with the exception of having a buffer send information indicated the buffer is full. The rejection concludes, however, that in view of the *Hales* disclosure, it would have been obvious to a person having ordinary skill in the art to provide that feature in the *Varma* system. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.
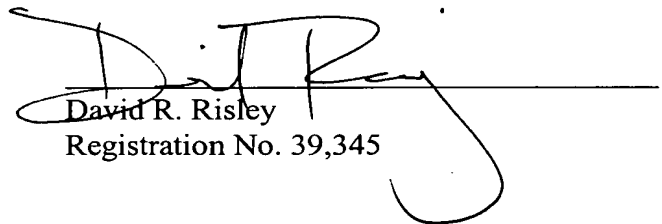
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B.   Discussion of the Rejection

As identified above in reference to Applicants' independent claims, *Varma* fails to disclose several explicitly claimed features of Applicants' inventions. In that *Hales* does not remedy the deficiencies of the *Varma* reference, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 24-26, 29-31, and 34-36, which depend from claims 22, 27, and 32, respectively, are allowable over the *Varma/Hales* combination for at least the same reasons that claims 22, 27, and 32 are allowable over *Varma*.

CONCLUSION

Applicants respectfully submit that pending claims 22-36 are in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the present application and all pending claims are hereby courteously requested. If, in the opinion of the Examiner, a telephonic conference would expedite the examination of this matter, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned attorney at (770) 933-9500.

Respectfully submitted,

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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450, on

August 1, 2003 .

Mary Meegan
Signature

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